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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 9, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Fair Week for Field Work: Several farmers spent the 4th of July week in the fields catching up for time lost during the previous week of rain. Overall, 4 days were suitable for fieldwork. Crop growers got the chance to resume hay, wheat, and barley harvesting this week. The sun was out the beginning and end of the week, but there were some showers late Tuesday and Wednesday. Some fields are still too wet to work in. The rains did help several crop conditions improve, especially corn, which shot up an additional 20 inches. Wheat growers are still suffering the most from the storms, with some fields blackening or sprouting. Many farmers reported that harvested wheat will only be used for livestock feed. As for hay progress, the second cutting of timothy/clover began and a fair amount of progress was made with second cutting alfalfa as well. Principal farm activities included spraying pesticides and topdressings, making hay, repairing equipment, harvesting wheat and barley, and spreading manure.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 9, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	74	25

Crops: The corn has finally tasseled. Five percent of the crop is in the silking stage, which is a little behind the 5-year average of 8 percent. Although silking is behind, corn height is remarkable at 55 inches, which is over a foot ahead of the 42 inch 5-year average. Corn condition has not changed much from the previous week, with 77 percent of the crop reported to be in good or excellent condition. The soybeans have all emerged, with soybean condition reported as 80 percent good or excellent. The wheat crop is well ahead of schedule, as 94 percent of the crop has ripened, 19 percent ahead of last year at this time. Harvest is still far ahead, as farmers have reaped 41 percent of their crop last week. This is the most advanced the wheat crop has been in the past several years. Although progress is well ahead of schedule, wheat condition is still not fairing so well. As farmers spend time harvesting their wheat crop, they are noticing that wheat condition is worse than previously expected. The heavy rain caused the condition to decline even more from the previous week, as 33 percent of the crop is in poor condition. Almost all of the barley has ripened. Ninety-seven percent of the barley is ripe, the same as the 5-year average. Farmers got a chance to catch up with the barley harvest, getting a total of 89 percent of the crop off the field. Ninety-two percent of the oat crop is headed, 3 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The yellowing stage is also ahead of the average at 36 percent. Oat condition has remained about the same as the previous week, with eighty-one percent of the oat crop in either good or excellent condition. The quantity of second cutting alfalfa has doubled last week, as farmers now have 48 percent of the hay made. This figure is 11 percent behind last year's number, but the same as the 5-year average. The timothy/clover first cutting is 89 percent complete and second cutting is 9 percent complete. Both cuttings are slightly behind last year, most likely due to days lost because of rain. The quality of hay made has

slightly improved from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 11 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

The peach and apple conditions in Pennsylvania have improved a little this past week. Ninety-nine percent of the apples and 100 percent of the peaches are reported to be in good or excellent condition. Peach harvest is expected to be underway this week.

Livestock: Pasture condition has improved this week. However, some farmers are still concerned with wet pastures and overgrazing. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

U.S. as of July 5, 2006: Heavy rainfall across the Atlantic Coast States hindered fieldwork and caused some flooding. Despite light to moderate precipitation across the Corn Belt, crop conditions declined slightly. However, soil moisture shortages remained a concern in a few areas, including the southwestern Corn Belt. Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Corn Belt, southern Great Plains, and Mississippi Delta.

Several rain records were broken in Pennsylvania. For instance, Mt. Pocono, PA, netted daily-record rainfall totals (2.76, 2.77, 3.14, and 1.08 inches) on 4 consecutive days from June 25-28. In the wake of the deluge, record flooding affected parts of New York and Pennsylvania. For example, record crests were noted in the upper Susquehanna River basin at locations such as Waverly, PA (11.53 feet above flood stage on June 29; previously, 10.40 feet above flood stage on March 18, 1936).

Corn: Acreage at or beyond the silking stage advanced to 10 percent, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of the normal pace in most states but lagged slightly behind normal in Illinois and Indiana. Across most of the northern Corn Belt and Ohio River, silking had not yet begun.

Soybeans: Blooming had begun on 18 percent of the acreage, compared with 19 percent last year and 13 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of the normal pace in most states. The crop rapidly advanced in areas adjacent to the Corn Belt.

Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 65 percent of their acreage, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. The most rapid progress was in Nebraska and Colorado, where 38 and 30 percent, respectively, of the crop was reaped during the week.

Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 58 percent, compared with 44 percent last year and 43 percent for the 5-year average. Oat heading, at 89 percent, was 7 points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of normal. Barley heading was well ahead of normal in all eastern states. For all small grains, the most rapid progress was in the northern Great Plains, where hot, dry conditions prevailed.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 9, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 9, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	55	69	-2	0.48	3	10.14	-1.67	44	1,059	111	1,930
Franklin	85	50	68	-2	1.45	3	13.22	-0.23	45	994	83	1,906
Meadville	82	51	67	-2	1.13	3	11.67	-1.29	43	984	163	1,869
Mercer	83	49	67	-3	0.93	3	15.67	2.59	46	925	19	1,825
Springboro	82	49	66	-4	1.71	3	15.47	3.93	47	860	-103	1,708
Warren	82	51	67	-3	1.39	3	15.41	1.72	45	907	28	1,784
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	42	63	-2	1.00	4	12.50	-1.36	46	710	91	1,526
Emporium	83	50	68	3	1.43	3	16.08	2.16	47	939	239	1,853
Kane	79	43	63	-2	1.59	3	12.44	-1.49	40	615	4	1,423
Laporte	79	51	67	-4	0.94	3	17.83	4.75	50	800	-108	1,657
Lock Haven	87	53	71	1	0.17	2	14.67	2.02	41	1,106	127	2,051
Port Allegany	81	48	66	0	0.46	3	11.39	-2.07	42	765	54	1,606
Renovo	86	46	68	-3	0.57	3	12.72	0.07	47	1,048	69	1,986
Ridgway	83	46	66	-1	0.93	3	13.28	-0.64	48	766	66	1,633
Stevenson Dam	83	51	69	3	0.62	3	10.97	-2.95	40	988	288	1,920
Towanda	88	51	70	2	0.17	2	11.34	0.48	44	1,015	94	1,914
Wellsboro	83	49	66	0	0.28	3	11.55	0.67	42	767	117	1,607
Williamsport	87	55	72	1	0.37	2	12.65	0.00	43	1,207	105	2,152
Northeast												
Hawley	85	49	69	3	0.59	2	21.44	9.24	36	878	124	1,740
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	51	71	0	0.14	2	14.48	2.71	41	1,123	87	2,046
Susquehanna	84	52	69	3	0.36	3	20.28	7.33	50	912	192	1,789
West Central												
Butler	83	49	68	-3	1.23	3	14.25	1.35	44	953	-2	1,876
New Castle	85	50	69	-2	1.42	3	14.10	2.27	44	1,090	132	2,024
Slippery Rock	83	50	68	0	0.80	3	17.50	4.89	51	1,001	141	1,924
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	49	68	-3	1.02	3	10.87	-1.02	40	1,069	20	2,008
DuBois	82	49	66	-3	0.58	4	14.22	0.97	51	904	16	1,794
Lewistown	89	54	71	-3	0.81	4	15.01	2.38	41	1,174	18	2,127
Middletown	89	60	74	-2	2.65	4	16.59	4.16	37	1,454	138	2,424
Prince Gallitzi	86	46	68	2	1.55	2	14.68	-0.13	42	821	13	1,709
Selinsgrove	90	54	72	2	0.73	3	17.45	4.68	41	1,148	81	2,093
State College	86	57	71	0	0.66	2	11.07	-0.63	38	1,151	120	2,101
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	55	73	-1	1.95	3	16.08	3.44	43	1,301	109	2,255
Lehighton	86	55	71	-2	0.98	3	19.54	6.88	48	1,151	13	2,086
Matamoras	85	51	70	-2	0.40	3	16.48	3.09	47	978	-41	1,873
Mt_Pocono	82	48	68	3	0.28	3	19.85	5.81	48	856	210	1,725
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	54	70	-2	1.79	2	12.69	0.34	46	1,223	171	2,182
Derry	87	51	68	-3	1.56	3	15.38	2.93	41	979	9	1,906
Myersdale	83	45	65	-5	2.06	3	13.83	0.14	48	678	-268	1,535
Mount Pleasant	87	48	68	1	1.85	3	14.75	0.44	44	958	110	1,880
Pittsburgh Intl	84	51	69	-3	1.26	3	11.82	0.22	43	1,174	62	2,121
Connellsville	90	51	70	-2	0.98	5	13.85	0.29	54	1,141	-2	2,087
Waynesburg	89	49	69	-3	1.15	4	10.90	-1.57	42	1,015	-1	1,955
South Central												
Biglerville	90	56	73	-2	0.71	4	17.25	5.72	41	1,293	-8	2,260
Everett	83	49	66	-5	1.02	4	12.92	1.61	45	799	-220	1,736
Hanover	91	54	73	-2	0.80	4	13.83	2.30	43	1,280	-21	2,241
Harrisburg_AP	91	57	74	-2	1.80	4	15.59	3.16	41	1,405	82	2,375
South Mountain	86	49	69	-3	1.43	4	20.85	8.96	44	960	-82	1,887
York	90	53	73	-2	0.62	3	12.34	-0.38	43	1,274	-26	2,229
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	57	74	2	1.41	3	19.70	7.48	43	1,317	191	2,275
Hamburg	90	56	74	3	2.05	4	18.96	4.09	48	1,356	346	2,312
West_Chester	92	50	72	-3	0.84	3	18.06	4.29	38	1,207	-77	2,159
Lancaster	91	56	74	0	1.14	5	20.93	8.22	43	1,354	159	2,318
Neshaminy Falls	90	56	74	1	1.18	3	18.49	4.50	40	1,224	32	2,184
New Holland	91	56	74	1	1.23	4	14.20	1.49	42	1,358	163	2,318
Philadelphia	92	62	76	1	2.00	3	15.83	3.48	34	1,623	227	2,610
Philadelphia NE	92	61	77	2	1.46	3	16.73	4.38	39	1,606	210	2,588
Reading	91	56	74	2	1.69	3	15.85	2.10	39	1,401	238	2,362
Valley Forge Na	92	57	75	-1	1.55	4	18.27	5.50	41	1,339	-29	2,301
Willow Grove	90	59	75	3	0.91	3	15.63	1.64	39	1,432	240	2,404

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County is still wet in most areas due to last week's rainfall. Some additional rain was received this week in the parts of the county that received rain last week. Fields are still wet except where they only got 3 inches of rainfall last week. Those farmers are now back in the fields.

Barley straw is still lying in fields awaiting some dryer field conditions so it can be baled. Wheat harvest is starting now after delay from rains. Most wheat is going to be feed wheat due to excessive moisture and most wheat fields are turning black in color. Corn and soybeans are looking better from the rainfall we received. Some corn is starting to tassel in the county. Some additional hay has been mowed this week since the forecast is calling for sunnier days. Humidity was very high several days.

Tart cherries are being harvested and should be about done. Rains last week made it difficult to get into orchards to harvest and to load trucks to be hauled into processing plants. Apples and peaches are looking good. Some early varieties of peaches are being harvested now. Some apricots are being harvested also. Sweet corn is now starting to tassel.

The first positive test result for plum pox was found last week in Adams County, Menallen Township. It was found in a quarantined area so no additional areas need to be extended. However, 15 acres will have to be removed.

Overall the crops in Adams County are looking good.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The week was spent trying to get wheat harvested and hay baled, but showers mid week slowed harvest. Any wheat that was harvested is likely to be only feed quality at this point. Straw is of poor quality as well. Some hay and wheat were harvested late in the week. Soybeans are still looking good for the most part. Cherry harvest has been completed. All other fruits are good at this point.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The farmers were busy trying to get hay harvested at the end of the week. Getting three dry days in a row is rare. Barley is just about ready to be harvested.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Crops are looking much better since we got rain over the past few weeks. The total in my gauge was 7/8 inch. Barley harvesting is well under way, as well as 2nd cutting hay making.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The warm and dry weather kept farmers busy making hay most of the week. Pasture condition is rapidly declining due to slow regrowth and overgrazing. Around the county crops generally look good; however some corn fields show the effects of early season damage from the cold weather and stress.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Some localized heavy rain and hail damage the night of July 9th.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The heavy rains last week and the early part of this past week have caused the conditions of the corn, soybeans, and alfalfa to lessen. The wet spots have increased in size and the yellowing has become widespread in some fields that are poorly drained. The total rainfall in nearly two weeks was in excess of ten inches. However, by mid-week when the sun came out and the temperatures increased, the crops began to improve. By the end of the week, many farmers were making very good quality hay. They were also combining wheat and barley. The early oats are near ready for harvesting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The excellent growing environment continued with almost perfect temperatures and moisture conditions. The second half of the week was drier and allowed for some hay and grain harvest.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 9, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	5	8	8
Corn average height, inches	55	46	42
Barley, ripe	97	100	97
Barley, harvested	89	85	84
Wheat, ripe	94	75	66
Wheat, harvested	41	0	0
Oats, heading or headed	92	92	89
Oats, turning yellow	36	27	29
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	48	59	48
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	89	91	84
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	9	16	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 9, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	15	49	30
Wheat	11	22	23	32	12
Oats	0	3	16	65	16
Soybeans	0	3	17	58	22
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	19	52	25
Timothy clover stand	1	7	33	45	14
Quality of hay made	11	8	31	38	12
Pasture	1	3	20	59	17
Peaches	0	0	0	51	49
Apples	0	0	0	50	50

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